

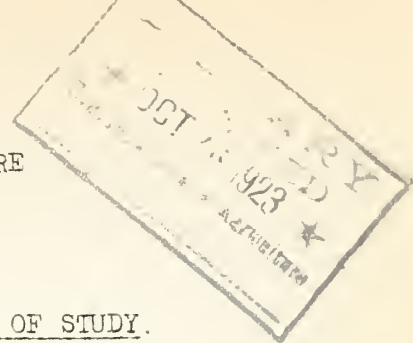
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY



THE BANDING OF BIRDS - AN INTERESTING FIELD OF STUDY.

Bird banding has opened a new field of study for persons interested in the habits and migratory movements of birds. Opportunities to engage in this work are available to everyone sufficiently concerned with the welfare of birds to supply them with food, shelter, or suitable nesting sites. No harm is done to the birds by either bands or traps, and, as everyone engaged in the work desires to band as many birds as possible, the station site chosen by him for trapping and banding is sure to be a bird sanctuary, where cats and other enemies of birds are eliminated.

By means of numbered aluminum bands that are issued without charge to bird banding cooperators of the Biological Survey, thousands of birds are being marked, and information of great interest and value is resulting. For example, did you know that the house wren may change mates two or even three times in one season, or that a common tern that was banded on the coast of Maine was found four years later at the mouth of the Niger River, in West Africa? If you are a sportsman, you will be interested to know where the ducks come from that frequent your shooting grounds during the open season. It has been found that some of the black ducks from the vicinity of Lake Ontario go southwestward to the Mississippi Valley, and that some of the fall mallards of Illinois and Missouri breed as far north as Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Everyone who takes part in the work of bird banding has the opportunity to make distinct contributions to the science of ornithology by making detailed studies of the birds that are attracted to his trapping station. Sportsmen may render most valuable assistance by banding ducks, shorebirds, and other wild fowl at their shooting grounds. This is usually best accomplished after the close of the hunting season, although it may be done to a large extent while the shooting is at its height. Elaborate equipment is not necessary at most stations, although persons with extensive grounds well suited to birds may add to their "catch" by operating several traps of different types.

Some of the most interesting work already done in bird banding has been accomplished with very simple apparatus at an ordinary window feeding-shelf, in some cases placed as high as two or three stories above the ground. The Biological Survey will furnish specifications for making traps of the kinds that have proved successful in this work and will otherwise assist in establishing trapping stations.

Persons interested in engaging in bird banding operations should write to the Bureau of Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., requesting blank form of application for the special Federal bird banding permit.

